The Southern PATRIOT

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McKellar Amendment Would Ruin TVA

Vast War Production Program in Jeopardy

Tennessee's cantankerous Senator Kenneth McKellar has reintroduced into the new session of Congress the same hamstringing bill he tried to get passed at the last session. The McKellar Amendment to the TVA Act would require all TVA receipts to be turned into the Treasury and all TVA condemnation proceedings to go through individual jury trial. David Lilienthal, TVA Director, and other friends of cheap power have pointed out that McKellar's proposal, if adopted, would impede the vast TVA war activities vital to our aluminum and aircraft production programs; that TVA's business efficiency would be destroyed at one stroke; and that development of the whole TVA region would be set back 25 years.

Would Discredit Public Power

McKellar is venting his personal spleen against TVA because it refused to give in to his dictatorship when he opposed the location of the new Douglas Dam because it meant condemnation of some lands belonging to a few of his well-to-do friends.

The McKellar Amendment was defeated in the last session only after a strong fight. As McKellar swings into battle again, it is important to remember what Lilienthal warned, "If the McKellar Amendment becomes law, it would do more than the utility propaganda of the last 25 years to discredit the public management of power enterprises".

BUY BONDS

Let your Senator know how you feel about this.

Battle for Food Can Be Won in South

Small Farmers (10%) of Total Contributed 32% of Total Increase in Beef in 1942

Big Producers Oppose FSA Help for Small Farmers

The battle of food production has not yet begun. This is the story of why it may be lost before it starts.

Last year our farmers grew a bumper crop. But that was in 1942, when weather conditions were exceptional, labor not really scarce, farmers had plenty of fertilizer, plenty of machinery, plenty of freight cars to carry away their crops. In 1943 they face a tougher situation—and yet the farmer must feed ever increasing numbers of hungry people. Now is when the battle of food production begins.

The American farmer must grow crops to feed a hard-working nation at home, to feed our fighting men, to feed our allies and to feed the nations we shall liberate.

Big Boys Fight FSA

Yet there are groups, the big farmer interests, the Farm Bureau boys and the National Grange, who love high prices more than they hate fascism. The AAA taught them that scarcity means profits. They refuse to expand war crops like long-staple cotton and peanuts, but insist on clinging to the old surplus crops like short-staple cotton, which has long kept the South in the peonage of a one-crop economy. The big farm boys fear increased production because increased production can only come from the small farmer—and they don't want the small farmer as a competitor after the war. For this reason they have seen to it that food production goals are set at minimum levels and they are trying to smash the Farm Security Administration. They are sending American agriculture into the battle of production minus its toughest, most able shock troops.

The small farmer has shown his potential worth in the battle of production. There are figures to prove it. The Farm Security Administration loaned money to 470,000 low-income farmers in 1942 and told them to help beat the food production goals. This is what these farmers, only 10 per cent of all the farmers in the country, were able to produce:

32% of the total increase in beef.

19% of the total increase in chickens.

33% of the total increase in dry beans.

11% of the total increase in peanuts.

24% of the total increase in flax.

How FSA Helps Small Farmer

1) Lends the farmer money to buy machinery, equipment and seed—so he can get the most out of his land.

2) Lends the farmer money to buy a cow, chickens and helps him start home gardening and canning—so his family will have more and healthier food at less expense.

3) Provides supervision for its borrowers—so they may learn

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February Patriots

In February, we celebrate the birthdays of three famous Americans —George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas. The independence and freedom which Washington helped to secure for our nation are today endangered by the most reactionary tyranny the world has ever known. And in place of the chattel slavery which Lincoln and Douglas helped to abolish in America, the world now faces a 20th Century monster which threatens to destroy all liberty and freedom for centuries to come.

* * * * * * *

The spirit of 1776 was the spirit of a great democratic war for national independence. George Washington, Virginia planter, became the popular leader. Rising above any class or narrow interests, he made common cause with the small farmers, mechanics and merchants in a struggle for freedom from a British tyrant. His iron will and determination, his ceaseless devotion to the national cause and his constant faith in the righteousness of the fight—all are qualities America must possess today.

Washington has also shown us the policies so necessary to victory. Benedict Arnold was but one of many traitors who composed the fifth column of that day, but Washington was firm and decisive in dealing with treason. Untiring vigilance against the "enemy within" was his policy. Washington recognized the international character of the American Revolution and always strove for unity with our Allies. His policy against the enemy was one of offensive warfare—no time, no rest, for the foe. He relied on guerrilla tactics and coordinated the work of Francis Marion, South Carolina's Swamp Fox, with his regular troops. His attention to morale is best illustrated by his having Tom Paine's pamphlets read to his men so that they might better understand the issues and nature of the struggle.

* * * * * * *

To free the millions of slaves was Abraham Lincoln's historic job. And in removing this shameful blot from American history, Lincoln relieved the South of the most limiting factor in its development. Always "dedicated to the great task remaining before us," he bequeathed to America the tradition of single-minded devotion to winning a just war. Lincoln was a pioneer in recognizing the role of labor and the common people both in America and the world.

* * * * * * *

The contribution of Frederick Douglas to Lincoln's victory is still keen and alive today. Douglas always tried to prevent the fight for Negro rights from being anything but part of the job of winning the war. While he pointed out that discrimination jeopardized victory and showed that the use of Negroes in the war effort was a "military necessity," he nevertheless eloquently appealed for full Negro support to the war. His great call, "Men of Color—To Arms!", rings out clearly today when America faces the most barbaric slave empire in the world.

* * * * * * *

Such are the lessons of these "February patriots." In the dangerous days ahead, we shall need the spirit of Valley Forge. Now, when "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are threatened everywhere by the Nazi masters, we must be vigilant against the traitors within. And today, when "this government of the people, by the people, and for the people" is facing its supreme test, we must learn as never before to submerge all differences for the single task of victory.

Battle for Food Can Be Won in South

(Continued from Page 1)

profitable farming methods and become successful, independent operators.

4) Helps farmers move from submarginal and worn-out land—so they can use their strength and ability on land that is worth farming.

64% of Small Farmers in South

If the FSA could reach more of these million and a half low-income farmers, it could help them smash all food production records. Sixty-four per cent of these farmers live in the South and in the South lies the greatest untapped capacity for production of vitally needed war crops.

President Roosevelt made Secretary of Agriculture Wickard the czar of food production on December 5, directing him to reorganize the food production program into fighting trim. Nothing happened for more than a month. On January 15, Wickard's director of food production, Herbert Parisius, threw up his job in disgust. He told the public that 1943 production goals had been set too low.

Wickard Against Small Farmer

Wickard accepted Parisius' resignation without comment and appointed a former AAA administrator to take his place as head of the food production organization. All indications are that the Department intends to provides subsidies and inflationary prices, loans for "sound" commercial growers, and intends to ignore the plea of the small, low-income farmer to be allowed to help win the war.

The issue is clear: Will the business-as-usual, scarcity-profit philosophy of the big farmers prevail —or can we put the weapons of production into the small farmer's hands and let him get in to make it a real fight? Let your Congressmen and Senators know how you feel about the FSA.

Southern War Labor Conference Convenes in Atlanta

3,000 AFofL Delegates Call for Full Support of War, Continuation of 'No-Strike' Policy, Abolition of Poll Tax and No Discrimination

The Southern War Labor Conference in Atlanta, January 16-17, brought together over three thousand representatives of the American Federation of Labor from all the southeastern states to discuss labor's part in the war.

Top-flight leaders of management, labor and government addressed the meeting, representing a million organized workers in the southern states, including 300,000 Negroes.

Among the distinguished list of participants were the Hon. Ellis Arnall, Governor of Georgia; William Green, president, and Frank Fenton, director of organization, of the American Federation of Labor; Wendell Lund, dirctor of Labor Production Division, War Production Board; L. Metcalfe Walling, director, Federal Wage and Hour Administration; Gen. Clark Howell, and Col. A. Robert Ginsburg, of the War Department; Admiral Clarke H. Woodward, United States Navy, and many other national figures. About one-fourth of the great audience in the Atlanta Municipal Auditorium were Negroes.

The ten-point program adopted covered the following subjects: 1. Continuation of the "no-strike" policy; 2. Labor representation on government boards and agencies; 3. Anti-labor legislation; 4. Continuation of the voluntary purchase of war bonds under the pay roll deduction plan; 5. Abolition of the poll tax; 6. Equal rights for all workers and no discrimination because of race, creed or color; 7. A universal minimum wage; 8. Organization of white collar workers; 9. Restriction of child labor; 10. Planning for the post-war world.

"No-Strike" Policy Approved

The pledge not to strike, adopted long before Pearl Harbor, was approved and attention was called to the fact that "there have been no strikes on any defense jobs in any of the twelve states represented, where the Local Unions of the AFofL were recognized as bargaining agents for the workers".

"Poll Tax a Contradiction in a Democracy"

A continued fight was urged on the poll tax as a condition of voting. "In this terrible war that is world-wide in scope, the contest is between dictatorship and democratic procedures. The AFofL was formed and came into existence because of labor's dedication to the ideals of democracy where those who goven must be selected by the governed. It is neither fair nor just nor honest in any government claiming to be established as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, to place a monetary condition upon a sovereign citizen in the free exercise of his franchise."

No Discrimination Because of Race, Creed, or Color

"This conference declares that it is in hearty accord with the fundamental principle of the AFofL, that the labor movement should serve the workers without regard to race, creed, or color, and further declares that there should be a condition of absolute equal rights on jobs and job opportunities without any discrimination whatsoever between the workers on account of race, creed, or color."

Sub-Standard Wages

The wage stabilization commission was called upon to "establish a minimum wage rate essential to fair living conditions, and declare all wages under that rate to be a sub-standard wage". The commission would then be asked to permit a wage increase in these sub-standard groups whenever agreed upon by employer and employee.

Free Copies of Senator Pepper's Anti-Poll Tax Speech Available

"A Plea for Democracy", the brilliant address by Senator Claude Pepper, of Florida, before the Senate of the United States, November 21st, may be had by writing to the Patriot.

Southern War Labor Conference in Atlanta

LETTERS

Abolish Mississippi Poll Tax

To the Editor:

A poll tax is a mockery of democracy and a degradation of a free people. What is more, it is at this particular time a decided hindrance to a successful prosecution of the all-out war on fascism.

If we want to be sure the South is going to take its rightful place with free peoples in post-war reconstruction, it is imperative we make ourselves worthy of the occasion. With that in mind, I invite all fellow Mississippians, regardless of race, color, religious or political affiliation, to communicate with me for the purpose of organizing an active workable campaign to abolish the poll tax of Mississippi and thereby restore patriotic Americans to their rightful place as responsible citizens in a democracy fighting for its very life.

A poll tax is the stepping-stone to native fascism. Let us remove that stepping-stone and put a stumbling block in its place.

"Full Democracy for the Poll Tax States"!

GUS UTH.

Oxford, Miss., Route 1, Box 22.

Minister Praises FSA

To the Editor:

I like the things you are doing in this paper and just at present I especially want to thank you for your excellent setting forth of the work that the Farm Security Administration is doing. As I see it, this is the organization we have been hoping for for many years to do something constructive with the very great group in our rural population that most needs help.

I am writing you now especially because I feel that everyone who values what the FSA is doing ought to do everything possible to keep certain elements in Congress from wrecking this remarkably good program. . . .

This work of the FSA promises the biggest increase in food crops during the war that can be secured from any source, and it certainly holds more hope for a healthy reconstruction after the war than any of the programs of relief do.

EDWIN E. WHITE,

Minister, Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, Tenn.

At Long Last

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New Year in War 1943

Cut to the bone, America!
  Cut down desire to barest need,
And portion out to each his share—
  We have a world to feed.

Where children are too weak to cry,
  Where women search the fields again
For frozen weeds and stalks of rye;
  Where hungry, fighting men
In blazing fort and foxhole wait
  For that one order to advance
On jungle trail, by desert gate,
  Or at the coasts of France.

A world where food is scare and far,
  Crushed by invasion's heavy heel,
Where ragged clothing is no bar
  To winds that cut like steel.

Speed on the ships! Each gaping hold
  Stuffed with the plenty of this land,
To conquer hunger, fear and cold,
  To show we understand
That all who have must give and give,
  Strenghening courage to endure,
  Till peace shall win the right to live,
  And freedom is secure.

HILDA W. SMITH.

Tennessee Repeals Poll Tax

The 1943 Tennessee Legislature repealed the poll tax, as a condition of voting. After 50 years the free ballot, corner stone of democracy, has been given back to the people. As one result of the poll tax, the number of voters in Tennessee had been reduced to where, in the last election, the Governor could be elected by 120,000 votes in a state with a population of 3,000,000.

Seven states still retain the poll tax: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Repeal of the tax in these states is a much more difficult matter, because it will require a constitutional amendment, a vital fact overlooked by those who oppose federal action on the ground that it is a matter for states to handle.

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EDITORIAL BOARD

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A Birthday Message to the President

In this great military undertaking in which our country is engaged, testing whether our nation or any nation holding to democratic ways of life shall endure, we pledge to you, our Commander-in-Chief, unswerving allegiance.

As Southerners—employers and workers, Negroes and whites, Jews and Gentiles, Republicans and Democrats, Highlanders and Lowlanders, rich and poor—we are first of all Americans. We will put aside those things that have divided us and hold to those that unite us—as one people, strong and invincible—we stand by you with our possessions and our lives in this fight for free men in a free world.

Absenteeism

The conviction is inescapable that there are many newspapers and not a few Congressmen that talk glibly about "absenteeism" for the purpose of weakening and destroying labor, rather than to increase production.

The real causes of absenteeism have been analyzed by Army, Navy and Labor Department experts. Careful factual studies show that it is industrial accidents and illness, not strikes, that form the most serious hazards to production.

The Industrial Hygiene Foundation estimates that sickness causes one hundred times more loss of time in war industries than strikes. Illness causes the average worker to lose about eight days a year, while strikes cause the loss of only one day in twelve years.

According to Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, many of the causes of absenteeism are simple and could be simply cured—for example, the correction of industrial and fire hazards, ventilation, lighting and arrangement of shifts. However, when the Secretary of Labor appeared before the House Appropriations Committee to ask for $337,000 with which to combat absenteeism in war plants, her request was denied. After tieing the hands of Miss Perkins, Rep. Johnson (Democrat) of Oklahoma berated her for doing nothing about absenteeism; then demanded to know the Secretary's "attitude toward strikes." He deserves to hear from his constituency.

Bombadier Meyer Levin

Another American hero is dead. Meyer Levin, bombadier with Colin Kelley when they sank the Japanese battleship Haruna, has joined his flying mate. He held the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, and the Oak Leaf Cluster.

Kelley and Levin—a Southern boy with an Irish name, and a Northern boy with a Jewish name—how well their record of courage and gallant action symbolizes the American tradition of freedom and equality that gives the lie to Hitler's racial myth.

Rickenbacker "Re-captured"

Many Americans are wondering if Eddie Rickenbacker is more concerned with fighting American workers than our fascist enemies. The continuing attacks upon labor by Rickenbacker are the more remarkable if we remember that one of his comrades in that recent watery ordeal on a rubber raft was a member of a CIO union, Sergeant Bartok.

To his barbs against labor Rickenbacker now has drawn his bow on the President for his order limiting salaries to $67,000 (after taxes) a year. Rick stands with those who would give more to those who have plenty, while taking away from the poor the little they now have.

If Rickenbacker's anti-labor campaign has won for him the presidential nomination by the head of the KKK and by Gerald K. Smith, it has lost for him whatever respect he may have commanded among American workers. President Frank X. Martel, of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor (AFofL), who knew Rick when he was an auto manufacturer, recalls that he "used labor spies" and "blacklisted men who dared to join a union". . . . "Captain Rickenbacker", said Martel, "seems to have escaped the Japs only to be captured—or recaptured—by the National Association of Manufacturers".

George Washington Carver

The death of Dr. George Washington Carver brought paeans of praise for his selfless life from both black and white. He was a great practical scientist, but even a greater soul. He never married, lived a simple life, gave his all both through chemurgic discovery and with his lifelong savings for the benefit of his peole, and quite as much for the benefit of the South and its underprivileged tillers of the soil. He was a mystic, deeply religious, and believed that many of his discoveries were suggested by revelation; prayer was to him as much a part of his equipment as his test tubes. He said little about the race question, but his life did more to ameliorate the harsh conditions under which his people live and work than many arguments.

In the face of his epic achievements can any reasonable person think of the Negro as inherently inferior?

Georgia Jails Personnel Agent, Fines Company $1,000

Was Recruiting Workers for Out-of-State Jobs. Emigrant-Agency Laws Interfere With Manpower Mobilization

Not long ago prominent newspapers carried a story about the personnel agent of a Newark scrap metal firm who tried to recruit laborers in Georgia. With the help of a foreman the company agent recruited a dozen or so workers and arranged for their transportation to New Jersey. At Cordele, Georgia, the chief of police boarded the train which carried the prospective job holders and carted all hands away to the local jail. The company agent was convicted unler a state law for enticing, without a license, laborers to be employed beyond the state. Later he reported that the judge gave him a suspended sentence of six months on the chain gang, placed him on probation for 18 months, and give him twenty-four hours to clear out of Georgia. His company paid a fine of $1,000. Because the Newark firm supplied scrap metal to an important war industry, it called the matter to the attention of the War Production Board and to President Roosevelt. In rejecting the pleas of a War Production Board official who attempted to intercede in behalf of the scrap metal firm, the Georgia Court judge was quoted as saying, "The War Production Board isn't running this court."

Emigrant-Agency Laws

Ten states of the South have so-called emigrant-agency laws similar to that in Georgia. These laws levy onerous fees for the privilege of recruiting labor to be employed beyond the limits of their respective states. Duplication of the state license for each county and separate levies by municipalities generally add up to a tribute of many thousands of dollars. Failure to pay the required fees constitutes a misdemeanor and subjects the convicted person to heavy fines or imprisonment.

Laws Date Back to 1876

These laws vary in their terms and in the manner of their application, but they all have the same purpose; namely, to discourage the removal of the laborers. In seeking this objective the emigrant-agency statutes belong to a family of laws which long tried to recreate for the South some of those conditions which had been struck down by the Civil War. The first emigrant-agency law appeared on the statute books of Georgia in 1876. The courts have been unwilling to go behind the letter of the law to recognize their true intent. Thus, in 1900 the Supreme Court of the United States upheld a later version of the Georgia law as a revenue measure for the support of government. The Court denied that it constituted an interference with interstate commerce or abridged the right of a citizen to come and go freely from state to state under the privileges and immunities guaranteed by the 14th amendment to the Constitution.

Interfere With War Needs

Serious interference with the mobilization of manpower for war is threatened by the possible application of these laws to officials of the United States Employment Services who make interstate referrals of labor. Labor must move from state to state in accordance with developing war needs and with the guidance of the United States Employment Service.

In South Carolina the recently defeated governor warned officials of the Employment Service that they would be subject to arrest or imprisonment if they violated the provisions of the state law. State interference with the operations of the Federal Government is sanctioned neither by the Constitution nor by wartime necessities. But a more important principle than the operation of the Employment Service is violated by these laws. The Supreme Court of the United States has declared that freedom to move in search of economic betterment is an attribute of individual citizenship protected by the Constitution. The intent and consequence of the application of these laws is to impair that right under the guise of taxing a business.

Washington Conference to Map Poll Tax Repeal

Having succeessfully engineered the anti-poll tax bill through the last session of the House, failing in the Senate only because of a disgraceful filibuster, the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax will map plans and strategy for passage of a new bill, H. R. 987, at a conference, March 9 and 10, in Washington, D. C. Joseph Clark Baldwin, sonsor of the new bill, will be one of the speakers. Others on the program are Father John A. Ryan; A. F. Whitney, President Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; and Virginia Foster Durr, Executive Vice-Chairman, National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax.

Birmingham Youth Council

The youth of Birmingham, those not yet called to the service, young women from defense jobs and offices, from high school and college, have formed a Victory Youth Council. They represent Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant Churches, trades unions, YMCA, YWCA, Girl Reserves, Girl Scouts and other groups.

Cooperating closely with the OCD, USO, OWI, and other agencies, the Council has undertaken to solicit 1,000 pints of blood, collect at least 2,000 books, present a weekly radio program, furnish workers to explain the rationing system, enlist volunteers to work on farms during the summer vacation, and many other important projects.

House Committee Refuses Funds for Children Of Working Mothers

Last week the House Appropriations Committee did its bit to make Manpower McNutt's job even harder than it already was. The committee refused his request for a small fund with which to provide day care facilities for children of working mothers.

Evidently the members of the committee were more concerned with venting their spleen against McNutt and with throwing obstacles into his path than with making possible the increased utilization of womanpower essential to war production. The McNutt request now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee, where it is hoped it will be considered in a more responsible manner. Meanwhile children of working mothers are on the street. Women who should be working on the war production front are kept at home for lack of day care for their children.

The committee also refused a request for funds to provide maternity care for the stranded wives of soldiers and their babies.

Let the members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committee, many of them Southerners, know how Southern patriots want them to act in this matter.

Southern members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:
- Senator Glass (Va.).
- Senator McKellar (Tenn.).
- Senator Thomas (Okla.).
- Senator Russell (Ga.).
- Senator Overton (La.).
- Senator Bankhead (Ala.).
- Senator Maybank (S. C.).

Southern members of the House Appropriations Committee:
- Rep. Woodrum (Va.).
- Rep. Tarver (Ga.).
- Rep. Johnson (Okla.).
- Rep. O'Neal (Ky.).
- Rep. Starnes (Ala.).
- Rep. Kerr (N. C.).
- Rep. Mahon (Tex.).
- Rep. Hare (S. C.).
- Rep. Thomas (Tex.).
- Rep. Hendricks (Fla.).

Vanderbilt Students Argue Over Religious 'Radicalism'

In January Vanderbilt University in Nashville held its annual Religious Emphasis Week, where prominent speakers are brought to the campus to discuss the personal and social values of religion. A few students, with their prejudices outraged, set out to use Religious Emphasis Week "radicalism" as an excuse to purge the campus of liberal Henry Hart. They circulated a petition which, in the first draft, called the speakers "highly seditious" and upon being informed that this made them liable for libel, proceeded to tone it down to "highly questionable". One of the leaders in the petition-group was Ann Stahlman, daughter of the publisher of the Nashville *Banner*, James G. Stahlman, who is also a member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust. The *Banner* proceeded to smear the story all over the top of the front page of one night's edition, and then, when the Nashville *Tennessean* on the following morning gave an objective account of the program, the *Banner* quickly forgot it.

Retorted Professor Francis McMahon of Notre Dame University, one of the speakers, to the charges: "Vanderbilt's Religious Emphasis Week was about as radical as a meeting of the College of Cardinals. . . ."

Conference on Religion and Southern Problems

A conference on "Christianity, Democracy, and the Healing of the South" will be held March 23-26 at the United Church, Raleigh, N. C., sponsored by the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen. Speakers include Reinhold Niebuhr and Mordecai Johnson. For further information write to Howard Kester, Black Mountain, N. C.

Gene Cox Uses FCC Investigation As Personal Cover Up

Representative Eugene Cox of Georgia has been charged with receiving a $2,500 fee from a radio station in Georgia, after he had represented the station before the Federal Communications Commission, in the matter of a new license.

Instead of presenting evidence to prove his innocence, Cox introduced a resolution in Congress to investigate the FCC. The bill passed and Cox was named chairman of the investing committee. Commenting on this curious procedure, Charlie Erwin, veteran labor journalist, wrote: "This is similar to a judge being accused of breaking the law and then being appointed to conduct an investigation not of the crime with which he was charged, but with investigating the people who brought the charges against him."

Cox his tipped his hand on his plans for handling the investigation by appointing as the committee's counsel a Wall Street lawyer, Eugene Gary, bitter enemy of the President's policies, now in partnership with a big Liberty Leaguer, Raoul Desvernine. Gary frequently has appeared before the SEC to defend Wall Street brokers accused by the Commission of irregularities in trading on the Street.